

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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ICA-11 HA-05 IO-13 AID-05 ARA-10 ACDA-12 NEA-10
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R 151200Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4536
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 CONAKRY 1339

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, MARR, MASS, OAU, GV
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT TOURE

DEPARTMENT FOR AF

LUXEMBOURG FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

DEPARTMENT MAY WISH PASS ADDIS, BANJUL, DAKAR, LUSAKA,
MOGADISCIO, PRETORIA, TEL AVIV, USUN NEW YORK

REF: (A) CONAKRY 1296 (NOTAL, (B) CONAKRY 1281 (NOTAL)
(C) CONAKRY 1284 (NOTAL, (D) CONAKRY 1293 (NOTAL)
(E) CONAKRY 1295 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MET WITH PRESIDENT TOURE JULY 13.
DISCUSSION WAS GENERAL BUT POSITIVE ON KHARTOUM OAU SUMMIT,
AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING, RHODESIA/NAMBIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS;
GENERALLY NEGATIVE ON SENEGAL/GAMBIAN RIVER COOPERATION AND
ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE. PATROL BOAT ISSUE WAS RAISED AGAIN
AND CLEARLY RANKLES. TOURE ASKED IF THERE IS NOT A TYPE OF
CRAFT NOT CLASSIFIED AS MILITARY. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL BANGOURA
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AGAIN RAISED QUESTION OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO THE US.
END SUMMARY.

2. MORNING JULY 12 REQUESTED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU
TOURE; SAW HIM EVENING JULY 13 IN THE COMPANY OF PRIME
MINISTER BEAVOGUI, PRESIDENT OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR THE
AMERICAS MOUSSA DIAKITE, AND PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF

PROTOCOL ALY BANGOURA. TOURE WAS GRACIOUS, SEEMED PLEASED TO SEE ME, FOLLOWED MY QUESTIONS CLOSELY AND RESPONDED IN RELAXED, INFORMAL BUT SERIOUS MANNER. MEETING LASTED ABOUT 40 MINUTES.

A. I CONGRATULATED TOURE ON SUCCESSFUL TRAVELS ABROAD DURING PAST THREE MONTHS, SPOKE OF IMPORTANCE OF UPCOMING OAU SUMMIT AND ASKED WHAT ROLE HE HOPED TO PLAY AT KHARTOUM NOW THAT HE HAS HAD BILATERAL CONTACTS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS HEADS OF STATE. TOURE RESPONDED VERY GENERALLY THAT HE HOPED TO PLAY PEACE-MAKING ROLE AND SEEK RESOLUTION OF INTRA-AFRICAN PROBLEMS HE HAD MENTIONED IN DECEMBER HAFIA SPEECH. BASIS FOR RESOLUTION WOULD BE TRUE NONALIGNMENT, RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. I OBSERVED USG OPPOSES CONCEPT OF PAN-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE OUTSIDE OAU AND ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGH MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH SUCH FORCE WITHIN OAU. TOURE AGREED RE UNACCEPTABILITY OF NON-OAU FORCE, WHICH HE TERMED "NEW COLONIALISM"; HE INDICATED OAU PEACE FORCE WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT KHARTOUM AND SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE SUCH MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED, BUT IT WAS CLEAR HE DID NOT THINK IT AN EARLY LIKELIHOOD.

B. I ASKED IF IN HIS TALKS WITH SIAD BARRE DURING ALEXANDRIA STOP HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN ASSURANCES SOMALIA WOULD NO LONGER SUPPORT SECESSIONIST IN OGADEN. CONFIDENTIAL

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TOURE WAFFLED, SAYING THAT WOULD DEPEND ON ATMOSPHERE AT KHARTOUM. I POINTED TO DESIRABILITY OF KEEPING CUBANS OUT OF THE PICTURE. HE AGREED WITH REGARD TO BOTH CUBANS AND SOVIETS BUT SAID THIS DEPENDS ON FINDING PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS; A STATE PHYSICALLY MENACED WILL TURN TO "THE DEVIL HIMSELF" FOR ASSISTANCE. HE FOLLOWED WITH A SHORT HOMILY ON IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING OLD COLONIAL BORDERS AND TALKED IN AN EASY MANNER ABOUT GUINEA'S RESPECTING BISSAU BORDER, ALTHOUGH MOST OF GUINEA-BISSAU USED TO BE PART OF GUINEA, AND THE FACT THAT GUINEAN SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU HAD BROUGHT ON PORTUGUESE ATTACK IN 1970.

C. I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT KHARTOUM DELIBERATIONS WOULD NOT CREATE COMPLICATIONS FOR EFFORTS OF USG AND ASSOCIATES TO RESOLVE NAMIBIAN AND RHODESIAN PROBLEMS (REF C). TOURE RESPONDED WITH ENTHUSIASM THAT "THE SITUATION" SEEMED TO VERY ENCOURAGING. I AGREED IT DID WITH REGARD TO NAMIBIA, ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS REMAINED IN RHODESIA.

D. I MENTIONED ZIONISM-RACISM QUESTION DISCUSSED JULY 4 WITH PM (REF C), HANDED HIM AIDE-MEMOIRE ON THE SUBJECT AND EXPLAINED US VIEW THAT Z-R CONNECTION

WOULD HARM EFFORTS TO SECURE WORLD SUPPORT AGAINST
APARTHEID AND STATED USG POSITION THAT IT COULD NOT

PARTICIPATE IN ANY CONFERENCE WHICH WAS LINKED WITH
THIS CONCEPT. TOURE DISAGREED STRONGLY, STATED ALL
MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL AND ISRAELI TREATMENT OF THE
PALESTINIANS WAS TO HIM A FORM OF RACISM. I CITED
PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN NAZI GERMANY AND SOVIET UNION,
NEED FOR HOMELAND SAFE FROM MAL-TREATMENT BY ARBITRARY
GOVERNMENTS, AND OFFERED VIEW THAT MOST ARAB-ISRAELI
DIFFERENCES SPRING FROM NATIONAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.
TOURE SAID NAZIS, NOT PALESTINIANS' HAD PERSECUTED THE
JEWS; THAT DID NOT JUSTIFY ISRAELI OUSTER OF
PALESTINIANS FROM TERRITORY IN WHICH THEY HAD LIVED
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WITH JEWS FOR YEARS, GENERALLY IN PEACE. TOURE
CONCLUDED THAT GOG RECOGNIZES RIGHT OF STATE OF ISRAEL

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R 151200Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4537
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 CONAKRY 1339

TO EXIST AND BE LEFT IN PEACE, BUT AS LONG AS ISRAEL
REFUSES TO PERMIT PALESTINIANS TO COME LIVE IN THEIR
TRADITIONAL LAND, HE CONSIDERS ZIONIST POLICY RACIST.
E. TO LET TOURE KNOW USG IS AWARE OF RECENT
PRISONER RELEASES, IS SAID WE WERE PLEASED AT POSITIVE

PROGRESS THAT CONTINUES TO BE MADE IN GUINEAN HUMAN RIGHTS; EVERY STEP FORWARD IN THIS AREA WILL MAKE US-GUINEAN RELATIONS AND COOPERATION THAT MUCH EASIER. FAR FROM RAILING AT RECENT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT (REF B), TOURE LAUGHED AND ASSERTED THAT GUINEA HAD A BETTER HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD THAN MANY A COUNTRY AND HAD FEWER PEOPLE IN PRISON THAN MOST AFRICAN STATES. SAID TREASON IS DEALT WITH SEVERELY IN ANY COUNTRY, BUT WHERE ELSE WOULD IMPRISONED PLOTTERS, LIKE FORMER BOKE GOVERNOR, BE LATER RELEASED AND GIVEN MINISTERIAL POSITION IN GOVERNMENT;? I OBSERVED I HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY NIGERIAN REINTEGRATION OF IBOS AFTER CIVIL WAR. TOURE SAID HE HAD VISITED EASTERN REGION JUST BEFORE THE WAR AND HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION, MODERN OUTLOOK, EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN, ETC. HE LIKED THE BIAFRANS AND SAID SO; THEIR MISTAKE WAS TO TRY SECESSION (ALTHOUGH THAT WAS NOT SO SERIOUS IN HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEW AS WOULD BE AN ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE STATE). F. I SAID ONE OF POSITIVE RESULTS I HOPED WOULD COME FROM GUINEAN NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL WAS GUINEAN PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SENEGAL AND GAMBIA RIVERS; ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS PROSPECT OF MOVEMENT THERE. TOURE GAVE ME A HARD STARE AND SAID COLDLY THAT IF SENEGALESE/GAMBIAN PLANS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH HIS, COOPERATION WOULD BE POSSIBLE; OTHERWISE, THEY COULD GO IT ALONE. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD GUINEAN COOPERATION WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR BOTH SCHEMES, PARTICULARLY THE GAMBIAN. HE COUNTERED THAT THE KOUNDRU/MALI AREA OF GUINEA HAD BEEN HARD HIT BY DROUGHT AND IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO DEVELOP DAMS AND IRRIGATION IN THAT REGION; HOWEVER, IF SENEGALESE/GAMBIAN PLANS FOR RIVER DEVELOPMENT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH HIS, COOPERATION WOULD BE POSSIBLE. G. HOPING TO END ON CHEERFUL NOTE, I INFORMED HIM OF STRENUOUS AID EFFORTS ACCELERATE BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION ON PART OF AGRICULTURAL PROJECT. TOURE EXPRESSED PLEASURE AND SAID AGRICULTURE IS AT BASE OF SOCIETY AND ECONOMY AND GOG IS GRATEFUL FOR ANY AND ALL ASSISTANCE IN THAT AREA.

3. HAVING FINISHED MY AGENDA, I ASKED (RASHLY) IF PRESIDENT HAD ANYTHING HE WANTED TO RAISE WITH ME. PM BEAVOGUI IMMEDIATELY CHIMED IN WITH COMPLAINT ABOUT US UNRESPONSIVENESS ON COASTAL PATROL BOATS EVEN AFTER SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS, PERUSAL OF CATALOG OF TYPES OF CRAFT, ETC. (REF D). TOURE PICKED THIS UP, ASSERTED US HAD COMPLAINED THAT PLANNED SOVIET CONSTRUCTION OF

TRAINING FACILITY ON ISLAND OFF CONAKRY WAS SOVIET
MILITARY BASE, SO GOG HAD CANCELED IT. HE CITED TU-95
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FLIGHTS, WHICH GOG THOUGHT WERE INNOCENT UNTIL USG
POINTED OUT "HEAVY" ESPIONAGE CAPABILITY OF SUCH
FLIGHTS AGAINST US NAVY ACROSS ENTIRE ATLANTIC; IN
RESPONSE TO US REQUEST, GOG TERMINATED THE FLIGHTS, BUT
USG HAS NOT BEEN WILLING IN RETURN TO LET GUINEA HAVE
HARMLESS BOATS NEEDED TO PROTECT ITS FISHING GROUNDS
FROM POACHERS. I REHEARSED US POSITION, OUR UNDER-
STANDING FOR GUINEAN NEED FOR PATROL CRAFT, BUT USG
INABILITY TO APPROVE TRANSFER BECAUSE THEY ARE
CLASSIFIED AS MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SUBJECT TO ARMS
TRANSFER RESTRAINT POLICY. TOURE REFLECTED ANNOYANCE
AT POLICY HE CONSIDERED CONTRADICTORY AND ASKED IF
THERE WERE NO TYPE OF COASTAL PATROL CRAFT THAT WAS
NOT REPEAT NOT CLASSIFIED AS MILITARY; ASKED ME TO
INQUIRE OF WASHINGTON, AND I AGREED. WITH THAT,
OUR MEETING CAME TO AN END.

4. ON THE WAY OUT TO MY CAR, ALY BANGOURA ASKED "WHAT
ABOUT THE VISIT TO THE US? (REF E). I SAID I HAD
COMMUNICATED TO WASHINGTON ON THE SUBJECT, AND HE SEEMED
SATISFIED FOR THE MOMENT.

5. COMMENT: A. IT IS CLEAR THAT USG POSITION ON PATROL
BOATS RANKLES AND TOURE HAS NOT ENTIRELY GIVEN UP ON
THEM. HOWEVER, OVERALL TENOR OF ABOVE MEETING DID NOT
INDICATE THE ISSUE WILL SERIOUSLY POISON US-GUINEAN
RELATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE HOW
TO REPLY TO FINAL INQUIRY PARA 3 ABOVE.

B. WHILE TOURE WAS WARY AND NOT VERY FORTHCOMING
IN HIS RESPONSES ON AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING, CONVERSATION
APPEARED TO CONFIRM OUR IMPRESSION THAT HE GOES TO
KHARTOUM HOPING TO CARRY THIS SUBJECT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.
HE DID NOT REALLY ANSWER MY REQUEST FOR RESTRAINT
REGARDING NAMIBIA/RHODESIA, BUT HIS ENTHUSIASTIC
RESPONSE RE CURRENT PROGRESS ON NAMIBIA MAY
REFLECT A WILLINGNESS TO HOLD OFF A WHILE LONGER ON
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RHODESIA.

C. RE HUMAN RIGHTS, GERMAN AMBASSADOR FLORIN TELLS
ME VISITING EEC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON WARNED TOURE
JULY 12 THAT HE WANTED TO INSERT CLAUSE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

IN PREAMBLE TO NEW LOME CONVENTION; TOURE STARTLED
CHEYSSON BY AGREEING ENTHUSIASTICALLY, LATER BRINGING
UP THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HIMSELF IN MEETING
CHEYSSON HAD WITH THE POLITBUREAU AND ASSERTING HE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 3 CONAKRY 1339

PLANS TO RAISE THE SUBJECT AT KHARTOUM SUMMIT. THIS
APPEARS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT TOURE MAY INTEND
SUBSTANTIALLY CLEAN OUT VESTIGES OF PAST HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS AS HE PURSUES NEW COURSE IN GUINEA'S
EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INTERNAL DETENTE.
D. HIS POSITION ON SENE/GAMBIA RIVER SCHEMES
WAS MUCH HARDER THAN I HAD EXPECTED. HOWEVER, IT IS
AT LEAST CLEAR THAT THE BALL IS IN SENEGAL/GAMBIA'S
COURT; PRESUMABLY, THE SOONER (AND MORE DIPLOMATICALLY)
THEY INVITE GUINEAN COOPERATION, THE BETTER.
E. REGARDING A POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRESIDENT TOURE
TO THE STATES, THE HEAT IS PROBABLY OFF UNTIL LATE
JULY, BUT AFTER THAT THE QUESTION IS LIKELY TO ARISE
AT ANY TIME; GOG INTEREST APPEARS TO BE SERIOUS. WOULD
BE GRATEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE WHEN THERE HAS
BEEN TIME TO WEIGH CONSIDERATIONS CITED REF E.
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TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, MARR, MASS, GV, OAU, (TOURE, SEKOU)
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